

## Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07  
AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02  
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05  
FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /130 W  
-----130116Z 051588 /66

R 121007Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4616  
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PLOS, BG  
SUBJ: BANGLADESH POSITION AT LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE

REFS: (A) DACCA 2473 (B) DACCA 2534

1. ADMIRAL M.H. KHAN, DEPUTY CHIEF MARTIAL LAW  
ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE BANGLADESH NAVY,  
TOLD THE AMBASSADOR ON MAY 12 THAT HE WOULD BE HEADING  
THE BANGLADESH DELEGATION TO THE FORTHCOMING LOS  
CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK. HE PLANS TO VISIT WASHINGTON  
ON MAY 20-23 PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE (SEPTEL) AND HAS  
BEEN INFORMED BY THE BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON  
THAT HE HAS AN APPOINTMENT WITH ELLIOTT RICHARDSON.

2. ADMIRAL KHAN SAID BANGLADESH'S MAJOR OBJECTIVE  
AT THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE TO SECURE SUPPORT FOR ITS  
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POSITION REGARDING DELINEATION OF BASELINES, AND HE  
PARTICULARLY HOPED FOR BACKING FROM THE USG. KHAN  
DESCRIBED IN DETAIL WHY BANGLADESH BELIEVES THAT,  
RATHER THAN FOLLOWING THE VAGARIES OF THE COASTLINE,  
THE BASELINE SHOULD BE SET AT A SPECIFIC WATER  
DEPTH, PREFERABLY TEN FATHOMS:

(A) BANGLADESH'S COASTLINE IS IRREGULAR AND  
INDENTED;

(B) THE ENTIRE COUNTRY IS DELTAIC AND ALMOST THE  
ENTIRE NATION CONSISTS OF ONE HUGE DRAINAGE BASIN;

(C) ITS SHORELINE IS HIGHLY UNSTABLE BECAUSE OF  
THE CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF WEATHER AND OTHER  
FACTORS;

(D) ITS COASTLINE IS CONCAVE, WHICH PLACES  
BANGLADESH AT A DISADVANTAGE IN COMPARISON  
WITH OTHER NATIONS ;

(E) SINCE NO INTERNATIONAL SEA LANES GO  
THROUGH THIS COASTAL REGION, INTERNATIONAL SEA  
TRAFFIC IS NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE  
BANGLADESH PROPOSAL.

3. THE AMBASSADOR TOLD ADMIRAL KHAN THAT, AS HE WAS AWARE  
FROM EARLIER DISCUSSIONS AT LOS MEETINGS, THERE WERE  
SERIOUS RESERVATIONS REGARDING THE BDG PROPOSAL. THESE  
CONCERN MATTERS OF PRECEDENT, SOVEREIGNTY AND POSSIBLE  
ADVERSE AFFECTS ON NAVIGATION. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE  
WOULD, HOWEVER, REPORT THE BANGLADESH POSITION AND  
ASSUMED THAT THE SUBJECT WOULD BE DISCUSSED FURTHER  
DURING THE ADMIRAL'S MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR  
RICHARDSON.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAW OF THE SEA, BOUNDARY DETERMINATION, MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977DACCA02563  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770168-0442  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770567/aaaacfdx.tel  
**Line Count:** 97  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** dee3b695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION DLOS  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 DACCA 2473, 77 DACCA 2534  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2553312  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BANGLADESH POSITION AT LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE  
**TAGS:** PLOS, BG, LOS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/dee3b695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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